



WHAT'S NEW - CENTRAL COAST

Adventours Outdoor Excursions. Adventours Outdoor Excursions offers new kayak tours of the crown jewel of the Channel Islands — Painted Cave — the largest sea cave in the world. Partnering with the new high-speed luxury catamaran, *Condor Express*, happy paddlers can get there within an hour and be back in time for lunch. Perfect for private soirees or corporate retreats, Adventours can host up to 100 kayakers through the cave's dramatic interior and craggy coastline. **Press contact: KOLI Communications, 805/899-4193.** Public contact: Adventours Outdoor Excursions, 805/899-2929.

Asilomar Conference Grounds. With a continued dedication to providing modern, comfortable facilities for conference guests while preserving its significant historic ambiance and status, Asilomar Conference Grounds recently announced the completion of a \$140,000 renovation project to Grace Dodge Chapel Auditorium. The outdated fixed seating theatre-style chairs have been replaced with custom fabricated chairs to match the original seating from the early 1900s. Original photos of the building and chairs were sent to an interior design specialist, and drawings of the new chairs were sent to state historians for approval prior to production. In much of the new seating, a tablet folds out of the arm for convenient note taking, and a few rows have swing-away arms on the aisle for wheelchair accessibility. New paint, gleaming refinished hardwood floors, and new exterior siding complete the update. **Press contact: Catherine Boire Public Relations, 707/255-5997, email: cboirepr@aol.com.** Public contact: Asilomar Conference Grounds, 831/372-8016, www.VisitAsilomar.com.

Atrium Cafes - Santa Clarita Valley. Opened in May, Atrium Cafes, a renovation and extension of the food court at Valencia Town Center, is a new dining selection in Santa Clarita Valley. Atrium Cafes, featuring some of the old favorites as well as tasty new choices such as Crepe House, Sharro's, and Cinnabon, includes patterned terrazzo tile

floor; 12 skylights; and booth, table and counter seating. Atrium Cafes satisfies appetites of up to 600 patrons. **Press contact: Janis Flippen Public Relations, 805/389-9495.** Public contact: Valencia Town Center, 661/254-0213, www.VisitSantaClarita.com.

Captain's Inn at Moss Landing. Moss Landing, a waterside community and fishing village on the northern edge of Monterey County alongside Highway One, reveals its maritime heritage through a new B&B, just opened in April. The Captain's Inn is a mix of the historic and innovative, the romantic and outdoorsy, offering accommodation in ten themed guestrooms. Four rooms in the completely renovated 1906 main building feature antique oak and polished crystal; the other six in the new Boat House overlook a river full of wildlife, and take 'nautical' to giddy heights – with bedsteads made from sailboats, boat trailers, dock timbers, even an old Moss Landing fishing boat. **Press and public contact: Captain's Inn, 831/633-5550, www.captainsinn.com.**

Hearst Castle®. Boxes, bowls and jars are types of containers that people use every day. A new exhibit at the Hearst Castle® Visitor Center features an assortment of containers selected from William Randolph Hearst's art collection and from the Castle's historic household objects. From an animal-headed Greek pot from the 4th century B.C., to a brilliant green glass jar made in the first part of the 20th century, visitors can take a closer look at containers from different times, places and cultures. The free exhibit will be on display through the summer of 2003. Reservations for Hearst Castle® tours may be made by calling 800/444-4445 or on www.hearstcastle.com. **Press contact: Hearst Castle®, 805/927-2074.**

Inflatable Adventures. Exploring the waters of the Channel Islands can be an exhilarating experience with the new "Inflatable Adventures" offered in association with Pacific Scuba in Oxnard. With the new service, visitors can enjoy a more intimate boating experience without the crowds, expense and time commitment. The service takes only six at a time versus 40 people on a boat, and it's only a short ride out to the islands. Ocean explorers can scuba dive, kayak, surf, or just simply skim the waves in the middle of a dolphin pod during the half-day guided cruising adventure. Passengers will ride

aboard a rigid-hull inflatable boat coined, “E-Ticket.” While venturing out to Anacapa Island, guess will learn about the fascinating history surrounding the California Channel Islands. **Press contact: Janis Flippen Public Relations, 805/389-9495.** Public contact: Pacific Scuba, 805/984-2566, www.pacificscuba.com.

Monterey Bay Aquarium. The most prized fish in the ocean (some of which have sold for more than \$100,000 each in Japan) are giant bluefin tuna, and now the Monterey Bay Aquarium has two on display. Two giant (300 pound) Pacific bluefin — the only giant tuna on exhibit outside Japan — now reside in the million-gallon Outer Bay exhibit. Ultimately, the duo — the basis of the most lucrative commercial fishery in the world — could weigh an astounding 1,000 pounds each. Those thinking of a visit to take in the tuna (in addition to a magnitude of amazing sea life) might also inquire about two new 3-foot long Pacific angel sharks. **Press contact: Monterey Bay Aquarium, 831/648-4922.** Public contact: 831/648-4888, www.montereybayaquarium.org.

Monterey Movie Tours. Since this June visitors can experience Hollywood in Monterey! Offered every day, the new 3-hour Monterey Movie Tour will highlight the Monterey Peninsula’s movie making magic and will visit many of the sites and locations where famous scenes were filmed. On board a deluxe 32-passenger tour coach with reclining seats described as a “theater on wheels,” visitors can listen to stories behind the filming of the movies, sing to some well-known show tunes, and follow footsteps of Barbara Stanwyck and Marilyn Monroe in *Clash by Night*, Tom Hanks in *Turner & Hooch* or Clint Eastwood in *Play Misty for Me*. So far more than 190 movies were made in Monterey County. **Press and public contact: Monterey Bay Scenic Tours, 831/372-6278 or 800/343-6437, www.mbstours.com.**

Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa. The Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa has completed a \$5 million renovation of its 285 guestrooms. The improvements, which began last summer, now add a completely new look and residential feel to the only luxury resort on Monterey Bay. Each guestroom features new carpeting, drapes, wallpaper, furniture, custom artwork and crown molding along with special amenities such as feather beds, new bathroom vanities and lighting. **Press contact: Woodside Hotels & Resorts, 650/358-**

3615. Public contact: Monterey Plaza Hotel, 831/646-1700,
www.montereyplazahotel.com.

Murphy Auto Museum. What do you do when your garage gets too cramped? Why, rent a 23,000 square-foot warehouse of course! That's what Dan Murphy of Ventura did when he ran out of space for his six vintage Packards — America's luxury car of the 1920s and 1930s. Deciding to share his good fortune with others, Murphy has opened the Murphy Car Museum in Ventura and is inviting other collectors to display their treasured vehicles as well. At present, the museum has 55 cars on loan and expects to reach its capacity of 65 as word of the collection spreads. Showcasing automobiles from almost every decade of the 20th century, the museum collection includes a 1967 Ferrari, a 1946 Packard limousine and a 1924 Ford Model T. The museum is open on weekends for public and by appointment for private functions, fundraisers and school field trips. Collectors are on hand for tours and to enlighten listeners on the history of the automobile. **Press contact: Mooncatcher Communications, 805/344-6620.** Public contact: Murphy Auto Museum, 805/654-0731, www.murphyautomuseum.com.

Quail Lodge Resort and Golf Club. Quail Lodge Resort and Golf Club, a luxury icon in Carmel Valley since its opening in the 1960s, has undergone a \$25-million renovation earlier this year touching nearly every aspect of the resort while preserving its legendary character. In addition to inspired new interiors and exteriors for the Lodge and Clubhouse, the enhancement includes a new innovative wellness center with two miles of trails and an expansion of the spa. The Grand Re-Opening Celebration is planned to take place by July 4. **Press contact: Middleton & Gendron, Inc., 212/980-9060.** Public contact: Quail Lodge Resort and Golf Club, 888/828-8787 or 831/624-2888, www.quaillodge.com.

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. In 1902, a West Wing was added to the White House to provide a workplace and a residence for President Theodore Roosevelt and his growing staff. Over the next 100 years, many additions and changes were made to this area that have come to symbolize the power of the American

Presidency. The newest exhibit in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley *The West Wing: The First Hundred Years*, on view now through October 31, 2003, will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the history and workings of the West Wing. Previously on view in the White House Visitor's Center, the exhibit will be completed with photographs and artifacts that were in the West Wing over the years and the stories behind them. **Press contact: Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, 805/522-2977.** Public contact: 800/410-8354, www.reaganfoundation.org.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art. On view from November 22, 2003, until February 15, 2004, *Worshiping the Ancestors: Chinese Commemorative Portraits* is the first major exhibition devoted to Chinese "ancestor portraits." These formal portraits are created as ritual foci for use in family ceremonies. The earliest portrait in the exhibition dates to 1451, but the majority were created in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The paintings, in addition to having visual appeal, provide a rich resource to study the history of portraiture, Chinese ritual practices, and Chinese culture. The exhibition will also examine how these almost life-size images were created, since the majority of them are posthumous portraits. **Press contact: Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 805/884-6430.** Public contact: 805/963-4364, www.sbmuseart.org.

Spa at Four Seasons Biltmore. A new 10,000 square-foot Spa at Santa Barbara's Four Seasons Biltmore recently debuted. Slither into one of the over-the-top treatment rooms complete with fireplaces, oversized whirlpools, Swiss showers and ocean view terraces, or a couple's suite with twin massage table for the ultimate rubdown. Owner, Beanie Baby mogul Ty Warner made his distinct imprint with exclusive Ty-designed tiles (Tyle™) that cause the pool to shimmer with a mother-of-pearl flair, as well as custom teak chaises from the new Ty Warner Collection. Other perks: the Spa Rose Garden, whirlpool with mineral water drawn from the property's well, state-of-the-art fitness center, villa-style swimming pool and luxurious anti-aging *Perle de Caviar* facial. **Press contact: KOLI Communications, 805/899-4193.** Public contact: The Four Seasons Resort Santa Barbara, 805/969-2261, www.fourseasons.com/santabarbara.

Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel. A new beachside full-service Marriott opened in Ventura in January. The Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel completely transformed every inch of Ventura's old Clarion Hotel with renovation of five ballrooms; four boardrooms with leather executive chairs, large screen TVs and high-speed Internet access; and a business center. Each of the 286 guest rooms features down-filled duvet covers, voicemail and high-speed Internet access. A new restaurant and lounge are also featured. **Press contact: Mooncatcher Communications, 805/344-6620.** Public contact: Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel, 805/643-6000 or 800/228-9290, www.marriott.com.

Ventura's Hidden Star Map. Hollywood isn't the only place with a star-studded "walk of fame!" Visitors to Ventura can grab a new free *Hidden Star Map* at local Visitors & Convention Bureau, or they can download it from www.ventura-usa.com, and they are off to discover city's shining sites while collecting rewards along the way. All they have to do is visit marked locations, answer the map's quiz question about these locations, and treat will be theirs right then and there. For example, counting the number of animals on the carousel at Ventura Harbor Village wins them a free ride, or identifying two creatures in the tide pool tank at Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center earns them a "buy one ice cream cone, get one free" coupon at Coastal Cone. **Press contact: Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, 805/344-6620.** Public contact: 805/648-2075 or 800/333-2989.